



RICHARD J. DALEY COLLEGE
ONE OF THE CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
APRIL 12, 2007

FCCCC President's Address
CCC Board of Trustee's Meeting
Thursday, April 12, 2007

Chairman Tyree, Chancellor Watson, members of the Board, Officers of the District, faculty, staff and all others present: Good morning!

On Tuesday the Executive Committee discussed the many on-going initiatives in the City Colleges that you are aware of. The three Study Abroad programs (Salamanca and the two Salzburg Seminars) have been finalized. Thirty-three faculty members have begun their "Master Faculty" training and in a short five weeks the first Faculty Development Seminar will begin. We also chose the date for next fall's Faculty Council/Administration Retreat: Friday, August 17. While the agenda is far from set, there is one topic that we will introduce: a two-semester foreign language requirement for the Associate of Arts degree. It promises to be challenging but well worth the effort as the foreign language pendulum is beginning to swing back towards relevance in today's globalized economy. For instance, just this past winter Western Illinois University reintroduced a foreign language requirement for its graduates. Since the A.A. degree is primarily used for transfer to a four-year college or university (unlike, say, the Associate in Applied Science), it behooves us to prepare our transferring students for the next level.

Finally, at the March Faculty Council meeting, it was brought to our attention that the faculty's unanimous choice to be the Distinguished Professor of the Year at Harold Washington College was not approved and you will not read his name in your board report today. This is very disappointing because Professor Mike Ruggeri has truly distinguished himself locally and nationally as an anthropologist and social scientist in his thirty-plus years at the City Colleges. He is popular with both his students and his colleagues. What's distressing is that the denial gives the appearance that he was rejected not for scholarly or professional reasons but rather for his union activism.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Lakin
President, FCCCC